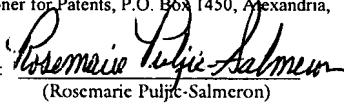


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 582596118 US, on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: May 9, 2007

Signature:


(Rosemarie Puljic-Salmeron)

Docket No.: 249212021000

(PATENT)

Client Reference No.: Q03-1028-US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application of:

Christopher RATHWEG

Confirmation No.: 8318

Application No.: 10/656,656

Art Unit: 3654

Filed: September 4, 2003

Examiner: J. Nguyen

For: TAPE CARTRIDGE SOFT
LOAD SYSTEM

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND
ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated January 9, 2007 (Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20070106), which set forth a restriction requirement and an election of species requirement for pending claims 1-48. A response was due on February 9, 2007. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to May 9, 2007. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

The Office Action required restriction to one of the following groups:

- I. Claims 1-27, drawn to apparatus and method of loading a tape cartridge into a tape drive, classified in class 242, subclass 338.4.
- II. Claims 28-48, drawn to apparatus and method of loading a tape cartridge and buckling a cartridge leader, classified in class 242, subclass 332.4.

The Applicant hereby elects group 1 (claims 1-27), without traverse, for continued examination.

The Office Action of January 9, 2007, also included an election of species requirement, requiring the Applicant to elect a single species for prosecution, and requesting a listing of all claims readable thereon. The identified species includes:

Actuator: (choose one)

1. Actuator 126 of Figs. 1-12,
2. Actuator 400 of Figs. 13-17B.

Buckler and Slide: (choose one)

1. Figs. 10A-G,
2. Figs. 18A-C.

The Applicant hereby elects Actuator species 1 (Actuator 126 of Figs. 1-12) and Buckler and Slide species 1 (Figs 10A-G). Applicants submit that claims 1-8, 11-23, and 25-27 are drawn to the elected species. Examination on the merits of the elected subject matter is hereby respectfully requested.

Applicant's election is made without prejudice. As noted by the Examiner, upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

An action on the merits of all the claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **249212021000**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: May 9, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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